

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An inspection apparatus using nuclear magnetic resonance comprising a controller controlling a pulse sequence applying a radiofrequency magnetic field and a magnetic field gradient to a living body placed in a static magnetic field to detect a nuclear magnetic resonance signal produced from said living body, wherein said controller performs (1) in the state that said living body stops exhalation or inspiration, 5 control of a first pulse sequence detecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signal to acquire a reference projection of an imaging section as the reference of monitoring of respiratory motion of said living body; (2) in the state that said living body breathes, control of executing once said first pulse 10 sequence detecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signal to acquire a projection of said imaging section used for said monitoring and in the state that said living body breathes, of repeating a second pulse 15 sequence detecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signal to acquire an image of said imaging section at predetermined repetition time intervals; and (3) control of collecting said nuclear magnetic resonance 20 signals used for image reconstruction of said imaging section in said second pulse sequence based on a similarity coefficient between said projection and said reference projection.
2. An inspection apparatus using nuclear

magnetic resonance comprising a controller controlling
a pulse sequence applying a radiofrequency magnetic
field and a magnetic field gradient to a living body
placed in a static magnetic field to detect a nuclear
5 magnetic resonance signal produced from said living
body, wherein said controller performs (1) in the state
that said living body stops exhalation or inspiration,
control of a first pulse sequence detecting said
nuclear magnetic resonance signal to acquire a
10 reference projection of an imaging section as the
reference of monitoring of respiratory motion of said
living body; (2) in the state that said living body
breathes, control of executing once said first pulse
sequence detecting said nuclear magnetic resonance
15 signal to acquire a projection of said imaging section
used for said monitoring and in the state that said
living body breathes, of repeating a second pulse
sequence detecting said nuclear magnetic resonance
signal to acquire an image of said imaging section at
20 predetermined repetition time intervals; (3) control of
collecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signals used
for the image reconstruction of said imaging section in
said second pulse sequence by monitoring respiratory
motion of said living body based on a similarity
25 coefficient between said projection and said reference
projection; and (4) control of repeating said (2) to
said (3).

3. An inspection apparatus using nuclear

magnetic resonance comprising a controller controlling
a pulse sequence applying a radiofrequency magnetic
field and a magnetic field gradient to a living body
placed in a static magnetic field to detect a nuclear
5 magnetic resonance signal produced from said living
body and an arithmetic processor using said detected
nuclear magnetic resonance signal to perform image
reconstruction of an imaging section, wherein said
controller performs (1) in the state that said living
10 body stops exhalation or inspiration, control of a
first pulse sequence detecting said nuclear magnetic
resonance signal; and (2) in the state that said living
body breathes, control of executing once said first
pulse sequence and in the state that said living body
15 breathes, of repeating a second pulse sequence
detecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signal at
predetermined repetition time intervals, said
arithmetic processor performs (a) arithmetic processing
of acquiring a reference projection of said imaging
20 section from said nuclear magnetic resonance signal
detected in said first pulse sequence of said (1); (b)
arithmetic processing of acquiring a projection of said
imaging section from said nuclear magnetic resonance
signal detected in said first pulse sequence of said
25 (2); and (c) arithmetic processing of determining a
similarity coefficient between said projection and said
reference projection, and said controller performs (3)
control of monitoring respiratory motion of said living

body based on said similarity coefficient to collect said nuclear magnetic resonance signals used for said image reconstruction in said second pulse sequence; and (4) control of repeating said (2) to said (3).

5 4. The inspection apparatus using nuclear magnetic resonance according to claim 3, wherein in said (3), said controller monitors said motion based on comparison of a value of said similarity coefficient with a predetermined threshold value.

10 5. An inspection apparatus using nuclear magnetic resonance comprising a controller controlling a pulse sequence applying a radiofrequency magnetic field and a magnetic field gradient to a living body placed in a static magnetic field to detect a nuclear magnetic resonance signal produced from said living body and an arithmetic processor using said detected nuclear magnetic resonance signal to perform image reconstruction of an imaging section, wherein said controller performs (1) in the state that said living body stops exhalation or inspiration, control of a first pulse sequence detecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signal; (2) in the state that said living body breathes, control of executing once said first pulse sequence; (3) in the state that said living body breathes, control of repeating a second pulse sequence detecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signal at predetermined repetition time intervals; and (4) control of repeating said (2) to said (3), said

arithmetic processor performs (a) arithmetic processing of acquiring a reference projection of said imaging section from said nuclear magnetic resonance signal detected in said first pulse sequence of said (1); (b) 5 arithmetic processing of acquiring a projection of said imaging section from said nuclear magnetic resonance signal detected in said first pulse sequence of said (2); and (c) arithmetic processing of determining a similarity coefficient between said projection and said 10 reference projection, and said controller performs (5) control of collecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signals used for said image reconstruction in said second pulse sequence based on comparison of a value of said similarity coefficient with a predetermined 15 threshold value.

6. An inspection apparatus using nuclear magnetic resonance comprising a controller controlling a pulse sequence applying a radiofrequency magnetic field and a magnetic field gradient to a living body placed in a static magnetic field to detect a nuclear 20 magnetic resonance signal produced from said living body and an arithmetic processor using said detected nuclear magnetic resonance signal to perform image reconstruction of an imaging section, wherein said controller performs (1) in the state that said living 25 body stops exhalation or inspiration, control of a first pulse sequence detecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signal; (2) in the state that said living

body breathes, control of executing once said first pulse sequence; and (3) control of repeating a second pulse sequence detecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signal at predetermined repetition time

5 intervals, said arithmetic processor performs (a) arithmetic processing of acquiring a reference projection of said imaging section from said nuclear magnetic resonance signal detected in said first pulse sequence of said (1); (b) arithmetic processing of

10 acquiring a projection of said imaging section from said nuclear magnetic resonance signal detected in said first pulse sequence of said (2); and (c) arithmetic processing of determining a similarity coefficient between said projection and said reference projection,

15 and said controller performs (4) control of collecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signals used for said image reconstruction in said second pulse sequence based on said similarity coefficient.

7. An inspection apparatus using nuclear magnetic resonance comprising a controller controlling a pulse sequence applying a radiofrequency magnetic field and a magnetic field gradient to a living body placed in a static magnetic field to detect a nuclear magnetic resonance signal produced from said living body and an arithmetic processor using said detected nuclear magnetic resonance signal to perform image reconstruction of an imaging section, wherein said controller performs (1a) in the state that said living

body stops exhalation, control of a first pulse sequence detecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signal; (2) in the state that said living body breathes, control of executing once said first pulse sequence; 5 and (3) control of repeating a second pulse sequence detecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signal at predetermined repetition time intervals, said arithmetic processor performs (a) arithmetic processing of acquiring a reference projection of said imaging 10 section from said nuclear magnetic resonance signal detected in said first pulse sequence of said (1a); (b) arithmetic processing of acquiring a projection of said imaging section from said nuclear magnetic resonance signal detected in said first pulse sequence of said (2); and (c) arithmetic processing of determining a 15 similarity coefficient between said projection and said reference projection, and said controller performs (4) control of collecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signals used for said image reconstruction in said second pulse sequence when a value of said similarity 20 coefficient is larger than a predetermined threshold value.

8. The inspection apparatus using nuclear magnetic resonance according to claim 7, wherein said controller executes once said first pulse sequence of said (1a). 25

9. The inspection apparatus using nuclear magnetic resonance according to claim 7, wherein said

controller performs control of repeating said first pulse sequence of said (1a) at said predetermined repetition time intervals, and said arithmetic processor obtains an average of projections of said imaging section acquired from said nuclear magnetic resonance signals detected by repeating said first pulse sequence of said (1a) as said reference projection.

10. The inspection apparatus using nuclear magnetic resonance according to claim 7, wherein between control of said (1a) and control of said (2), said controller performs (1b) in the state that said living body breathes, control of repeating said first pulse sequence at said predetermined repetition time intervals, and said arithmetic processor performs arithmetic processing of determining frequency of appearance of said similarity coefficient between a projection of said imaging section acquired from said nuclear magnetic resonance signals detected by repeating said first pulse sequence of said (1b) and said reference projection and decides, as said predetermined threshold value, said similarity coefficient in which the sum of said frequency of appearance in a part in which said similarity frequency is close to 1 is $1/m$ of the sum of said frequency of appearance where m is a positive number of 3 or above.

11. An inspection apparatus using nuclear magnetic resonance comprising a controller controlling

a pulse sequence applying a radiofrequency magnetic field and a magnetic field gradient to a living body placed in a static magnetic field to detect a nuclear magnetic resonance signal produced from said living body and an arithmetic processor using said detected nuclear magnetic resonance signal to perform image reconstruction of an imaging section, wherein said controller performs (1) in the state that said living body stops exhalation, control of a first pulse sequence detecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signal; (2) in the state that said living body breathes, control of repeating said first pulse sequence at predetermined repetition time intervals; (3) in the state that said living body breathes, control of executing once said first pulse sequence; (4) control of repeating a second pulse sequence detecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signal at said predetermined repetition time intervals; and (5) control of repeating said (3) to said (4), said arithmetic processor 10 performs (a) arithmetic processing of acquiring a reference projection of said imaging section from said nuclear magnetic resonance signal detected in said first pulse sequence of said (1); (b) arithmetic processing of acquiring a projection of said imaging section from said nuclear magnetic resonance signal detected in said first pulse sequence of said (2); (c) arithmetic processing of determining a similarity coefficient between said projection and said reference 15 20 25

projection; and (d) arithmetic processing of
determining a predetermined threshold value from
frequency of appearance of said similarity coefficient,
and said controller performs (6) control of collecting
5 said nuclear magnetic resonance signals used for said
image reconstruction in said second pulse sequence when
a value of said similarity coefficient is larger than
said predetermined threshold value.

12. The inspection apparatus using nuclear
10 magnetic resonance according to claim 11, wherein said
similarity coefficient in which the sum of said
frequency of appearance in a part in which said
similarity frequency is close to 1 is $1/m$ of the sum of
said frequency of appearance where m is a positive
15 number of 3 or above is decided as said predetermined
threshold value.

13. An inspection apparatus using nuclear
magnetic resonance comprising a controller controlling
a pulse sequence applying a radiofrequency magnetic
20 field and a magnetic field gradient to a living body
placed in a static magnetic field to detect a nuclear
magnetic resonance signal produced from said living
body and an arithmetic processor using said detected
nuclear magnetic resonance signal to perform image
25 reconstruction of an imaging section, wherein said
controller performs (1) in the state that said living
body stops exhalation, control of executing a first
pulse sequence having a first time section applying, to

5 said living body, a slice select magnetic field gradient having a positive polarity and a radiofrequency magnetic field, a second time section applying, to said living body, a readout magnetic field gradient having a negative polarity, a third time section detecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signal in the state of applying said readout magnetic field gradient having a positive polarity, and a fourth time section applying, to said living body, said

10 readout magnetic field gradient having a negative polarity; (2) in the state that said living body breathes, control of executing once said first pulse sequence; (3) in the state that the living body breathes, control of executing, after said first pulse sequence of said (2), a second pulse sequence repeating, at predetermined repetition time intervals, a pulse sequence having a fifth time section applying, to said living body, said slice select magnetic field gradient having a positive polarity and said radiofrequency

15 magnetic field, a sixth time section applying, to said living body, respective magnetic field gradients of a phase-encoding magnetic field gradient and a readout magnetic field gradient having a negative polarity, a seventh time section detecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signal in the state of applying said readout magnetic field gradient having a positive polarity, and an eighth time section applying, to said living body, said phase-encoding magnetic field gradient having the

20

25

opposite polarity of the polarity of said phase-encoding magnetic field gradient applied in said second time section and said readout magnetic field gradient having a negative polarity, by changing the magnitude 5 of said phase-encoding magnetic field gradient; and (4) control of repeating said (2) to said (3), said arithmetic processor performs (a) arithmetic processing of one-dimensional inverse Fourier transforming said nuclear magnetic resonance signal detected in said 10 first pulse sequence of said (1) to acquire a reference projection of said imaging section in the direction applying said readout magnetic field gradient of said imaging section; (b) arithmetic processing of one-dimensional inverse Fourier transforming said nuclear 15 magnetic resonance signal detected in said first pulse sequence of said (2) to acquire a projection in the direction applying said readout magnetic field gradient of said imaging section; and (c) arithmetic processing of determining a similarity coefficient between said 20 projection and said reference projection, and said controller performs (5) control of collecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signals used for said image reconstruction in said second pulse sequence based on comparison of a value of said similarity coefficient 25 with a predetermined threshold value.

14. The inspection apparatus using nuclear magnetic resonance according to claim 13, wherein said controller performs control of collecting said nuclear

magnetic resonance signals used for said image reconstruction in said second pulse sequence when a value of said similarity coefficient is larger than a predetermined threshold value.

5 15. The inspection apparatus using nuclear magnetic resonance according to claim 13, wherein said arithmetic processor performs arithmetic processing of determining frequency of appearance of said similarity coefficient and decides, as said predetermined threshold value, said similarity coefficient in which the sum of said frequency of appearance in a part in which said similarity frequency is close to 1 is $1/m$ of the sum of said frequency of appearance where m is a positive number of 3 or above.

10 16. The inspection apparatus using nuclear magnetic resonance according to claim 13, wherein said controller executes once said first pulse sequence of said (1).

15 17. The inspection apparatus using nuclear magnetic resonance according to claim 13, wherein said controller performs control of repeating said first pulse sequence of said (1) at said predetermined repetition time intervals, and said arithmetic processor obtains an average of projections of said imaging section acquired from said nuclear magnetic resonance signals detected by repeating said first pulse sequence of said (1), as said reference projection.

18. An inspection apparatus using nuclear magnetic resonance comprising a controller controlling a pulse sequence applying a radiofrequency magnetic field and a magnetic field gradient to a living body placed in a static magnetic field to detect a nuclear magnetic resonance signal produced from said living body and an arithmetic processor using said detected nuclear magnetic resonance signal to perform image reconstruction of an imaging section, wherein said controller performs (1) in the state that said living body stops exhalation, control of executing a first pulse sequence having a first time section applying, to said living body, a slice select magnetic field gradient having a positive polarity and a radiofrequency magnetic field, a second time section applying, to said living body, a readout magnetic field gradient having a negative polarity, a third time section detecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signal in the state of applying said readout magnetic field gradient having a positive polarity, and a fourth time section applying, to said living body, said readout magnetic field gradient having a negative polarity; (2) in the state that said living body breathes, control of repeating said first pulse sequence at predetermined repetition time intervals; (3) in the state that said living body breathes, control of executing once said first pulse sequence; (4) in the state that said living body breathes,

control of executing, after said first pulse sequence
of said (3), a second pulse sequence repeating, at said
predetermined repetition time intervals, a pulse
sequence having a fifth time section applying, to said
5 living body, said slice select magnetic field gradient
having a positive polarity and said radiofrequency
magnetic field, a sixth time section applying, to said
living body, respective magnetic field gradients of a
phase-encoding magnetic field gradient and a readout
10 magnetic field gradient having a negative polarity, a
seventh time section detecting said nuclear magnetic
resonance signal in the state of applying said readout
magnetic field gradient having a positive polarity, and
an eighth time section applying, to said living body,
15 said phase-encoding magnetic field gradient having the
opposite polarity of the polarity of said phase-
encoding magnetic field gradient applied in said second
time section and said readout magnetic field gradient
having a negative polarity, by changing the magnitude
20 of said phase-encoding magnetic field gradient; and (5)
control of repeating said (3) to said (4), said
arithmetic processor performs (a) arithmetic processing
of one-dimensional inverse Fourier transforming said
nuclear magnetic resonance signal detected in said
25 first pulse sequence of said (1) to acquire a reference
projection of said imaging section in the direction
applying said readout magnetic field gradient of said
imaging section; (b) arithmetic processing of one-

dimensional inverse Fourier transforming said nuclear magnetic resonance signal detected in said first pulse sequence of said (2) to acquire a projection in the direction applying said readout magnetic field gradient of said imaging section; (c) arithmetic processing of determining a similarity coefficient between said projection acquired in said (b) and said reference projection; (d) arithmetic processing of determining a predetermined threshold value from frequency of appearance of said similarity coefficient; (e) arithmetic processing of one-dimensional inverse Fourier transforming said nuclear magnetic resonance signal detected in said first pulse sequence of said (3) to acquire a projection in the direction applying said readout magnetic field gradient of said imaging section; and (f) arithmetic processing of determining a similarity coefficient between said projection acquired in said (e) and said reference projection, and said controller performs (6) control of collecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signals used for said image reconstruction in said second pulse sequence based on comparison of a value of said similarity coefficient determined in said (f) with said predetermined threshold value.

25 19. The inspection apparatus using nuclear magnetic resonance according to claim 18, wherein said controller performs control of collecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signals used for said image

reconstruction in said second pulse sequence when a value of said similarity coefficient is larger than a predetermined threshold value.

20. An inspection apparatus using nuclear magnetic resonance comprising a controller controlling a pulse sequence applying a radiofrequency magnetic field and a magnetic field gradient to a living body placed in a static magnetic field to detect a nuclear magnetic resonance signal produced from said living body, wherein said controller performs (1) control of a first pulse sequence detecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signal to acquire a reference projection of an imaging section as the reference of monitoring of a heartbeat of said living body; (2) control of executing once said first pulse sequence detecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signal to acquire a projection of said imaging section used for said monitoring and of repeating a second pulse sequence detecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signal to acquire an image of said imaging section at predetermined repetition time intervals; and (3) control of collecting said nuclear magnetic resonance signals used for image reconstruction of said imaging section in said second pulse sequence based on a similarity coefficient between said projection and said reference projection.

21. An inspection apparatus using nuclear magnetic resonance comprising control means executing a pulse sequence applying a radiofrequency magnetic field

and a magnetic field gradient to a living body placed
in a static magnetic field to detect a nuclear magnetic
resonance signal produced from said living body; and
means performing reconstruction of a projection using
5 said detected nuclear magnetic resonance signal to
monitor motion of said living body, wherein said
control means executes said pulse sequence acquiring
said projection and determines a similarity coefficient
between said projection and a reference projection
10 acquired in engagement with said pulse sequence to
monitor motion of said living body.